

SOFTBALL SASKATCHEWAN
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY

Effective date	April 1 st , 2024
Archived date	N/A
Date last reviewed	January 1, 2026
Scheduled review date	January 1, 2028
Replaces and/or amends	N/A
Approved by and date	Softball Saskatchewan Board of Directors, January 12, 2026
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	N/A
Safe Sport approval date	

Purpose

1. Softball Saskatchewan¹ supports Individuals in seeking to resolve their own conflicts and recognizes that, in many cases, disputes can be resolved directly and quickly in an informal way. In situations where direct resolution by Individuals may be inappropriate or unsuccessful, Softball Saskatchewan encourages the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to resolve disputes, which can be achieved through negotiation, facilitation, and mediation. ADR provides a way to resolve disputes while avoiding the uncertainty, expense, and other negative consequences often associated with formal appeals, complaints, or litigation.
2. Open communication and collaboration are key principles in resolving conflicts. Softball Saskatchewan encourages all Individuals to engage in constructive dialogue, problem-solving, and negotiation to address differences. Negotiated settlements are generally preferred to arbitrated outcomes, as they promote mutual understanding, preserve relationships, and lead to fair and sustainable solutions. Consequently, Individuals are strongly encouraged to seek negotiated resolutions to disputes wherever possible.

Application of this Policy

3. This Policy applies to all Individuals.
4. Opportunities for ADR may be pursued at any point in a dispute when all Parties to the dispute agree that such a course of action would be mutually beneficial.

Facilitation and Mediation

¹ A separate document with term definitions that apply to all Softball Saskatchewan Policy is found online and in the Softball Saskatchewan Safe Sport Policy Manual.

5. If all Parties to a dispute agree to ADR, a mediator or facilitator, acceptable to all Parties, shall be appointed to mediate or facilitate the dispute. The costs of the mediation or facilitation shall be borne by Softball Saskatchewan, unless agreed to otherwise with the Parties. The mediator or facilitator shall be a member of ADR Saskatchewan and shall otherwise comply with any applicable legislative or regulatory requirement to conduct mediation in the province of Saskatchewan.
6. Where Softball Canada is involved in the matter, it may, upon agreement of the Parties, refer the matter for mediation using the mediation services of the SDRCC.
7. The mediator or facilitator shall decide the format under which the dispute shall be mediated or facilitated and may, if they consider it appropriate, specify a deadline before which the Parties must reach a negotiated decision.
8. Should a negotiated settlement be reached, the settlement shall be reported to the Softball Saskatchewan Safe Sport Liaison and the Independent Third Party. The Independent Third Party shall notify Sask Sport of any settlements that are reached (but shall not provide the settlement agreement to Sask Sport unless requested by Sask Sport). Any actions that are to take place as a result of the decision shall be enacted on the timelines specified by the negotiated settlement. Where Softball Saskatchewan may be required to implement any part of a negotiated settlement, it shall become a Party to the mediation or it shall be given the opportunity to approve the negotiated settlement, but only with respect to aspects of the settlement that it may be required to implement.
9. Should a negotiated settlement not be reached by the deadline specified by the mediator or facilitator at the start of the process (if set), or if the Parties to the dispute do not agree to ADR, the dispute shall be considered under the appropriate section of the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* or *Appeal Policy*, as applicable.

Final and Binding

10. Any negotiated settlement will be binding on the Parties and shall, unless the Parties decide otherwise, remain confidential and will be protected by Softball Saskatchewan's usual policies and practices regarding private and/or confidential information. Negotiated settlements may not be appealed.
11. No action or legal proceeding will be commenced against Softball Saskatchewan in respect of a dispute, unless Softball Saskatchewan has refused or failed to provide or abide by the dispute resolution processes set out in its governing documents.

Privacy

12. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to Softball Saskatchewan's usual policies and practices regarding private and/or confidential information.
13. Softball Saskatchewan or any of its delegates pursuant to this Policy shall comply with Softball Saskatchewan's usual policies and practices regarding private and/or confidential information in the performance of their services under this Policy.